



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CHICAGO FISHERY RECEIPTS FOR 1940 SHOW 23 PERCENT INCREASE

"When computed in terms of carload lots, the total quantity of fresh and frozen fishery products received in the Chicago Wholesale Market during 1940 would fill approximately 2,950 freight cars. Coupled end to end, these would extend a distance of slightly more than 24 miles."

Edwin C. Hinsdale, Fishery Marketing Specialist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, thus describes the magnitude of Chicago's 1940 fishery receipts--almost 60,000,000 pounds, originating in 34 States, Alaska, and 8 Provinces of Canada--in the 42-page second annual summary released today by the Service's Chicago Fishery Market News office.

The 1940 total--spread among 101 classifications consisting of 38 fresh-water, 44 salt-water, and 19 shellfish and miscellaneous items--represents an increase of 23 percent when compared with 48,419,000 pounds for 1939.

Receipts of fresh-water varieties continued to predominate during 1940--showing an increase of 18 percent over the 1939 volume--and amounted to 31,745,000 pounds, or 54 percent, of the total.

Salt-water species increased 30 percent to 16,200,000 pounds, or 27 percent of the total. The remaining 19 percent of the total--11,488,000 pounds--was made up of shellfish and miscellaneous items which gained 27 percent over 1939.

Fresh and frozen halibut, shrimp, and lake trout were the three leading species, increasing 14, 18, and 15 percent, respectively, over 1939.

Received in smaller quantities than the above species, but showing very large individual increases, were frozen spiny lobster tails with an increase of 419 percent, sea scallops with 268 percent, and whiting (including frozen fillets) with 117 percent.

Only two major varieties showed an appreciable decline during 1940--blue pike, decreasing 76 percent; and chubs, 23 percent. Fresh and frozen sauger remained almost unchanged, with an increase of less than 1/2 of one percent.

Eight species accounted for 81 percent of all fresh-water receipts. These included fresh carp and the following fresh and frozen varieties: lake herring, lake trout, sauger, smelt, whitefish, yellow perch, and yellow pike.

Fresh and frozen halibut, fresh and frozen salmon, and frozen rosefish fillets accounted for 77 percent of the total salt-water receipts. Only three items--fresh and frozen shrimp, shell oysters, and shucked oysters--made up 85 percent of the total for the shellfish and miscellaneous classification, with shrimp alone accounting for 65 percent.

Fishery shipments of domestic origin accounted for 71 percent of the total, while 29 percent were imported. Wisconsin, Michigan, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Illinois were the leading domestic points of origin, while the bulk of the imported shipments came in from British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Domestic catch amounted to 42,202,000 pounds--an increase of 22 percent over 1939. The imported catch totaled 17,231,000 pounds, representing a gain of 25 percent.

Fresh-water species supplied to Chicago came from 26 States and 7 Canadian Provinces. Furnishing the bulk of the fresh-water fishery products were Wisconsin, Michigan, and Manitoba, whose combined catch accounted for 64 percent and, with the addition of Minnesota and Illinois, 78 percent of the fresh-water total.

Salt-water species came from 16 States, Alaska, and three Canadian Provinces, with British Columbia (including in bond shipments), and Massachusetts together accounting for 80 percent. With the addition of Washington, Alaska, Maine, and New York, the combined receipts of salt-water species rose to 87 percent. Twenty-six States and two Canadian Provinces were the sources for shellfish and miscellaneous items, with four States--Louisiana, New York, Texas, and Virginia--producing 82 percent.

States showing the largest increases in shipments during the year were New Jersey with 126 percent; Massachusetts, 74 percent; New York, 67 percent; Minnesota, 46 percent; and Louisiana with 44 percent. During the year shipments from Alaska declined 51 percent; Texas, 50 percent; Ohio, 28 percent; and Washington, 16 percent.

Receipts were heaviest during October, totaling 5,992,000 pounds, with December and November receipts closely following. Receipts were least in August, amounting to 3,640,000 pounds. November was the leading month for fresh-water fish with March following and August last. September was the largest month for arrivals of salt-water fish, February next, and January poorest. October was the most important month for shellfish arrivals, with December second, and August again last. Greatest shipments of domestic origin were received during October while imported fishery products arrived in heaviest quantities during February.

During 1940 fishery products arrived, without exception, by motor trucks, express, or rail freight, all of which showed appreciable gains during the year, increasing 46, 13, and 12 percent, respectively.

Truck shipments of fresh-water varieties increased 31 percent over 1939, salt-water varieties 107 percent, and shellfish and miscellaneous items 195 percent. The latter gains were due, to a great extent, to much larger receipts of frozen fillets from Massachusetts, and shrimp from Louisiana.

Express shipments of fresh-water species increased 10 percent, salt-water varieties 7 percent, and shellfish and miscellaneous items 70 percent.

Freight shipments of fresh-water classifications increased but one percent, salt-water products 23 percent, and shellfish and miscellaneous items 10 percent.

Receipts of imported fish arriving by truck increased 66 percent, by express 19 percent, and by rail freight 20 percent over 1939, while domestic truck, express, and freight shipments also showed corresponding increases of 44, 10, and 7 percent, respectively.

In conclusion Mr. Hinsdale states, "From an analysis of these statistics it appears that the trend of receipts is upward from most producing areas, and for most classifications of fishery products."

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